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Economic History and Geography

Armenia Economica. By V. TOTOMIANZ with a preface by LUIGI LUZZATTI. (Rome: A. F. Formiggini. 1919. Pp. viii, 86.)

Professor Totomianz, of the University of Moscow, an Armenian by race, lately a refugee in Italy, has written a compact volume which so soberly and impressively describes the economic status of his country that it deserves a wide circulation, if possible in translation. The time has passed when our western countries can continue in complacent ignorance of the affairs of Asia Minor; and henceforth the need will be felt of understanding all sides of the lives of the people who dwell there.

Much more than a political difference makes the chasm between Armenia and our own country. The heavy hand of the Turk has been everywhere, extinguishing hopeful effort, the fiscal system has been incredibly bad, the Turk himself lazy; but if at one stroke this alien control were swept away, a large problem, not soluble at a stroke, would be bared. In several at least of its main features this problem exists in all regions of Asia Minor, in much of Russia, in the Balkans, including Greece, in South Italy, Spain, and elsewhere. Stated in the simplest terms, an ancient agricultural system has never yet been adjusted to modern world circumstances and non-agricultural industry has not been modernized. Many a telling sentence in Professor Totomianz's book could be applied literally to some of these other countries, the political constitutions of which are greatly different. Though more than half a century has passed since the Bourbons were ousted from South Italy, the problem there today offers endless analogies with that of Armenia.

Here is a country predominantly agricultural—it was a world granary in ancient times—yet now forced, despite a relative sparseness of population, to import grain. The rich forests that once existed are gone (wood is so scarce that manure is a common fuel) and the usual consequences have appeared: floods, the fear of floods, abandonment of fertile lands. “If the course of the Meander could be controlled, those immense plains would become rich and prosperous, and the great delta of the Meander could become like that of the Nile.” Water is plentiful, cotton could be grown extensively, but works of irrigation are insignificant today. The ancient plow which scratches and does not turn over the soil is in general use, and implements and methods of culti-

vation are at nearly every point antiquated. The Turkish land system which has many surprising analogies with that still left over from feudalism farther west, is discouragingly bad. Various are the parasitic types it has developed. The heavy taxes are unaccompanied by needed gains to the people, as, for example, by the construction of ways of communication. Though three continents are in adjacency, the railroads are few and under foreign control and in each case they serve the political ends of their owners as well as economic ends (Totomianz expects that English, French, and American capital will complete the Bagdad railway). Coal and iron abound, even in close association, but modern industry has not begun. Silk grows finely, but no organization of its manufacture has appeared. Like the Venetians and Genoese, the Armenians have been made traders by the advantageous cross-roads position of their country.

The book is much more an account of what is wrong in the condition of Armenia than a program of action. A great deal, however, that needs to be done stands forth by implication. The author does indeed stop to lay stress on coöperative enterprise (he is a well known advocate of coöperation), some forms of which are very old among the Armenians, and on banks of the Raiffeisen type. Emigration he deplores as "a grave damage to the integrity of the Armenian people."

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World-Power and Evolution. By ELLSWORTH HUNTINGTON.
(New Haven: Yale University Press. 1919. Pp. 287.
\$2.50.)

This new book of Professor Huntington's possesses all the strong and weak points of his previous writings. In common with *The Pulse of Asia*, *Palestine and Its Transformation*, or *Civilization and Climate* it combines originality of ideas, clearness of expression, and wealth of laboriously collected and effectively handled material with an overemphasizing of certain phenomena and a willingness to arrive at far-reaching conclusions upon what would seem to many insufficient data. It is true that a number of the author's statements indicate that he is aware of his bias; but this cannot free him from accusation that he is one sided and that, in the pursuit of corroborative evidence for his thesis, he does not always analyze carefully his facts either regarding their impor-